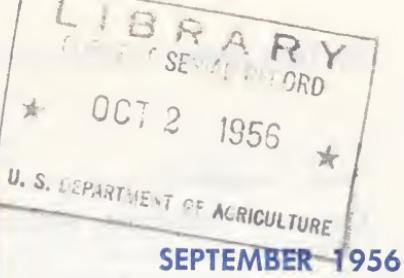


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Agricultural Situation



Vol. 40, No. 9

Agricultural Marketing Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

YES, THERE ARE FEED "BARGAINS"

Livestock feeders may find you can save money if you use another feed grain rather than the one you're using. You may want to feed more oats, barley or sorghum grain rather than corn. Or, it may be the opposite.

The high or low supply of feed grains and its effect on price in your local area may be the key to what feed grain is more profitable for you to buy. But remember, it's a changing situation, by seasons or by years, depending on the time of harvest or the size of the corn, oat, barley, and sorghum grain crops.

Feed is one of the major costs to every farmer producing livestock and poultry. The cost of feed is over two-thirds of the total cost of producing hogs, broilers, and turkeys, and over half the cost of producing eggs. The cost of grain and other concentrates makes up well over half of the cost of fattening cattle, and about a fourth of the cost of producing milk.

Although much of the purchased feed is bought as ready mixed rations or protein supplements, many farmers buy substantial amounts of grains and other feeds for mixing on the farm.

Because of the importance of feed, it pays to select feeds that give you the best value for the money. However, feeds that are the best buy during September or October may not be the best buy in November or December, or next year.

The time of harvest, the size of the crop being produced, and changes in the demand from feeders will influence price relationships between grains and other feeds. Some may be cheap one season and expensive the next.

For example, prices of oats and barley are usually cheapest in the summer, when they are being harvested, while corn is high at that season just before the new crop is ready for harvest.

With the much smaller crop of oats being harvested this summer, oats are not as cheap relative to corn as they were a year ago. However, they are again a comparatively cheap source of feed in many areas of the country. Barley prices are about as low relative to corn as they were last summer. Last year's big crops and low prices of oats and barley resulted in the heaviest feeding of these two grains since the war years.

When you compare prices of the various feeds you should consider not only the feed but the type of livestock being fed. For example, under normal

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feeding conditions, oats are worth more when fed as a part of the ration for dairy cows than when fed to beef cattle or hogs. Barley is more valuable when used in a dairy ration or as a hog feed than it is when used as an ingredient of poultry rations. Sorghum grain, on the other hand, makes a better feed for poultry than for hogs.

Comparisons of the various feed prices shown in the table on page 3 take into account the relative feeding value for the type of livestock or poultry specified and also the difference in the weight of the unit in which the feed is sold and a bushel of corn. The purpose of the table is to serve as a rough guide as to the cheapest feed grain for these types of livestock. The prices do not allow for cost of grinding or other processing which may be necessary for one grain and not for another. The quality and type of the grain also would have to be considered. The comparisons do not necessarily apply to grain produced on the West Coast or other areas where the composition differs materially from the United States average.

These tables assume the grains will be fed in balanced rations. The comparisons do not necessarily apply if use of the grain is increased to such an extent that it makes up an abnormally large part of the ration, since there may be limits to the extent to which substitution can be made. For most livestock and poultry the feeder probably will find it desirable to retain minimum quantities of various ingredients, making only partial and not complete substitution.

Changes in livestock rations should be made with moderation. Abrupt changes, especially for some types of

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Here's About the Price You Can Pay for Grain¹—

If CORN price per bushel is—	For dairy cows			For beef cattle		
	OATS, per bushel	BARLEY, per bushel	SOR-GHUM GRAIN, per 100 pounds	OATS, per bushel	BARLEY, per bushel	SOR-GHUM GRAIN, per 100 pounds
\$1.00.....	\$0.51	\$0.86	\$1.79	\$0.48	\$0.76	\$ 1.65
\$1.10.....	.57	.95	1.97	.53	.83	1.81
\$1.20.....	.62	1.03	2.15	.58	.91	1.98
\$1.30.....	.67	1.12	2.33	.63	.98	2.14
\$1.40.....	.72	1.20	2.51	.68	1.06	2.31
\$1.50.....	.77	1.29	2.68	.73	1.14	2.47
\$1.60.....	.82	1.38	2.86	.78	1.21	2.64
\$1.70.....	.87	1.46	3.04	.83	1.28	2.79
For poultry						
\$1.00.....	\$0.51	\$0.69	\$1.70	\$0.43	\$0.78	\$1.61
\$1.10.....	.57	.76	1.87	.53	.86	1.77
\$1.20.....	.62	.83	2.04	.58	.94	1.93
\$1.30.....	.67	.89	2.21	.63	1.02	2.09
\$1.40.....	.72	.96	2.38	.68	1.09	2.25
\$1.50.....	.77	1.03	2.55	.73	1.17	2.42
\$1.60.....	.82	1.10	2.72	.78	1.25	2.58
\$1.70.....	.87	1.17	2.88	.83	1.33	2.73

¹ Prices of oats, barley, and sorghum grain, equivalent to specified levels of corn prices, after adjusting for differences in weight and feeding value.

livestock, may adversely affect quantity or quality of production or the rate of gain, thus losing the feeder more than the saving in feed cost.

Under normal feeding practices, the table shows about what a feeder can pay for other feed grains at various levels of corn prices. For example, a dairyman could pay about 72 cents a bushel for oats with corn at \$1.40 per

bushel and be getting about the same feeding value per dollar. If the price of oats is much below 72 cents, oats would be the cheaper feed; if it is much above 72 cents, then corn would be cheaper.

Malcolm Clough
Agricultural Economics Division, AMS

Ralph Jennings
Agricultural Research Service

COTTON STANDARDS BENEFIT FARMERS



Cotton farmers may not know very much about technical descriptive terms of the official standards for grade and length of staple, but the payoff comes when you sell your cotton.

If you have your cotton classed in terms of the standards by a qualified and disinterested cotton classer, you are in a better position to bargain for full market value. Or, you can place it in the loan if you can't get a price in excess of the loan value.

Classed by USDA

Farmers generally are unable to grade cotton in terms of the official standards. This fact, together with the wide variations in value of various qualities of cotton, account in large part for the phenomenal growth in the number of samples classed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the Smith-Doxey Act. Almost 12 million bales of cotton were classed for farmers under this service in 1955, compared with only 84,000 bales classed in 1938 when the service was first inaugurated.

The standards provide uniform terms for spot and futures contracts and for pricing and price quotations. They are the descriptive terms in which the Department of Agriculture graded 81 percent of the 1955-56 crop for farmers under the Smith-Doxey Act. They are the basis for grading all cotton pledged

by farmers on Commodity Credit Corporation loans and descriptive terms used in establishing quality differences paid to farmers under the loans.

The universal standards consist of 24 grades having varying degrees of leaf, preparation, and color as listed at the bottom of this page.

The 7 White grades and 4 Tinged grades are represented by physical boxes illustrating degrees of quality. The other grades are made descriptive in terms of the physical standards.

For example, Middling Spotted cotton is cotton which has more spot or color than Middling White and less than Middling Tinged. Middling Yellow Stained cotton is Middling Tinged in leaf and preparation but deeper in yellow color than Middling Tinged.

Standards Conference

Farmers, as sellers of cotton, have a direct interest in adequate quality standards. In an effort to maintain such standards, more than 100 delegates of organizations concerned with growing, merchandising, exporting, and manufacturing United States cotton met in Washington in May for the Eleventh Universal Cotton Standards Conference.

Organizations of spinners and merchants in the leading cotton importing and consuming countries of the world

White	Spotted	Tinged	Yellow Stained	Gray
Good Middling.....	GM Sp*.....	GM Tg*.....	GM YS*.....	GM Gray.*
Strict Middling.....	SM Sp*.....	SM Tg.....	SM YS*.....	SM Gray.*
Middling.....	M Sp*.....	M Tg.....	M YS*.....	M Gray.*
Strict Low Middling.....	SLM Sp*.....	SLM Tg.....	.....	SLM Gray.*
Low Middling.....	LM Sp*.....	LM Tg.....	.....	.....
Strict Good Ordinary.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Good Ordinary.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

*Descriptive standards.

were represented at the conference to reconsider and review the universal standards for grade of American upland cotton.

The United States official standards for grade and length of staple provide a universal standard for describing quality where American cotton is bought and sold. These are the means by which world mills specify their quality requirements as to grade and staple length.

For more than 30 years the USDA has had a formal cotton agreement with cotton associations in various foreign consuming and importing countries. This agreement provides that these associations use the universal standards for grade in all transactions in which grades are specified for the purchase and sale of United States upland cotton.

Key Sets Approved

The USDA also agreed that representatives from the various associations who have signed the Universal Standards Agreements should participate in improvement and maintenance of the standards. Every 3 years conferences such as the one held in Washington in May are held to review the grade standards and to see that they are maintained accurately.

At the last conference, the conferees approved some 1,700 copies of the currently adopted standards for use as key sets during the next 3 years. They also agreed that the life of the standards boxes should be reduced from 18 months to 12 months. This change was made because of the tendency of the color of standards to change with time and usage.

The conference also recommended a new descriptive White grade, Strict Good Middling, which would include all cotton better than Good Middling in leaf, color and preparation. The Department later established this standard to be effective August 1, 1957.

The principal groups, in addition to representatives from 13 foreign cotton associations from 9 importing and consuming countries, included representatives from producer, spinner, and merchant organizations in this country.

The United States official standards for length of staple are not included in the Universal Cotton Standards Agreement but are generally used throughout the world in buying and selling United States cotton.

The standard for staple length is the length by measurement of a typical portion of fibers at a 70 degree temperature and a relative humidity of 65 percent. In practice, most of the various lengths of cotton in steps of $\frac{1}{32}$ " are represented by staple types which are made and sold along with the grade boxes by the USDA. A portion of the staple type standard is pulled by the classer and matched with a pull of the sample of cotton to determine the length of the sample.

There are 336 grade and staple combinations quoted in the 1956 CCC loan differences. The range in value for the various staples of Middling (White) cotton is 12.80 cents per pound, compared with 12.65 cents per pound for the various grades of 1" cotton. And, the maximum range from GM $1\frac{1}{4}$ " to LM Tg. $1\frac{13}{16}$ " in the CCC loan differences for 1955-56 is 24.50 cents per pound.

Classing of cotton generally is an art acquired by practice. The classer determines grade and staple length which are indicative of the general quality of cotton. Grade and staple are the terms used in buying and selling most commercial cotton.

Mechanical Tests

In recent years, however, various mechanical measurements for cotton have been developed in the laboratory. There are machines for measuring length, fineness, maturity, and various other quality elements in cotton. All of these are important in the spinning utility.

However, these tests are generally supplementary to determinations of grade and staple by the classer. Nevertheless, these tests are of growing importance, and possibly in years to come they may be used as generally in buying and selling cotton as are grade and staple.

Rodney Whitaker, *Deputy Director
Cotton Division, AMS*

HOG AND SHEEP PRODUCTIVITY UP

Today's sows and ewes, like today's cows, are more productive than their ancestors of 30 years ago.

These days, 1,450 pounds live weight of hogs are being produced for each sow farrowing during the year. This is 30 percent more than the 1,119 pounds produced per sow 3 decades ago. Live weight production of sheep and lambs per ewe on farms and ranches January 1 has gone up from 58.8 to 75.0 pounds, or 28 percent.

These increases, however, are less than the 48-percent gain in production of cattle and calves per cow in the last 30 years. Two means not available to hogs have helped to step up output of beef. These are a shift from dairy to beef types, and feeding cattle to heavier weight. In hogs, every attempt to produce a bigger, fatter animal or to market at heavier weights has run into the obstacle of consumer resistance to fat pork.

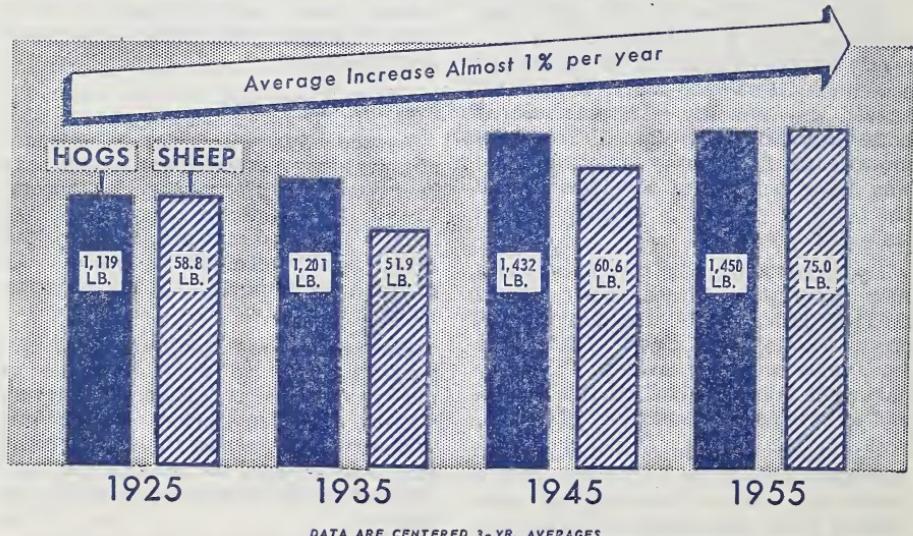
Most of the added efficiency of producing hogs arises in remarkable increases in litter size from 5.48 spring pigs and 5.64 fall pigs 30 years ago to 6.91 spring and 6.80 fall pigs now. Also, whether the consumer wishes it or not, average slaughter weights are heavier now than in the mid-twenties and more pork and less lard is cut out from the hog carcass. Pork output per head slaughtered is up from 123 pounds then to 135 pounds now.

Lambing percentages have risen. They were around 85 percent (that is, 85 lambs per 100 ewes) in the twenties, but have been 95 percent in each of the last 3 years. Most of this advance has occurred since 1948. Dressed carcass weights of sheep and lambs are 7 or 8 pounds heavier now—probably a desirable increase reflecting improved types of lambs raised and marketed.

A spectacular result of enhanced efficiency is that 27 percent more pork and 21 percent more lamb and mutton are being produced now than 30 years ago from slightly fewer sows and 18 percent fewer ewes.

Harold F. Breimyer
Agricultural Economics Division, AMS

LIVE WEIGHT PRODUCTION OF HOGS PER SOW AND LAMBS PER EWE



Outlook

Prices received by farmers, which rose above a year earlier in June and July, are expected to continue above a year earlier during the remainder of 1956. Crop output this year, according to August 1 indications, will be smaller than in 1955 and a further expansion is in prospect for both domestic and foreign demand.

Realized net income from farming in the last half of 1956 now appears likely to exceed that of last year. The year's total also is expected to be up slightly.

Livestock

Improvement in livestock prices compared with last year reflects an ending of the huge fed beef supplies of past months. Total livestock slaughter and meat output for the rest of 1956 will be less than the year before. Chief reduction this fall will be in slaughter of hogs. Slaughter of cattle is expected to continue above last year, but average weights will be lighter and no more beef may be turned out than last fall.

Dairy

With another large feed crop in prospect and the continued increase in fall freshenings, milk flow will be greater in the remainder of 1956 than a year earlier. Sales of milk in fluid form continue to show significant increases over last year in Federal order markets. Prices to farmers for milk and butterfat are running above last year. Cash receipts from milk this year will be around the record of 4.6 billion dollars, compared with 4.2 billion in 1955.

Poultry and Eggs

Broiler chick placements declined seasonally in July and held about steady in August; weekly placements in early August were 3 million below the peak weeks in June but 14 percent above last August.

It seems likely the laying flock next fall will be only slightly larger than in 1955.

Cotton

A record cotton supply of about 27.7 million bales is in prospect for 1956-57, 1.7 million bales more than in 1955-56. Exports in 1956-57 are expected to more than double the 2.2 million bales estimated for the year ended August 1.

Fats and Oils

Supplies of food fats other than butter in October 1956-September 1957 probably will be about the same as the year before. Beginning stocks will be down but output is likely to be up somewhat. Reduced production of lard and cottonseed oil will be more than offset by record quantities of soybeans for crushing and export. The quantity of these fats, including soybeans, available for export in 1956-57 will be about as large as the record 2.7 billion-pound total estimated for this year.

Feed

The total supply of feed grains and concentrates for 1956-57 is estimated at 191 million tons, 3 percent below the record supply last year. The indicated supply per animal unit is close to last year's record.

Winter Vegetable Guides

In the 1957 winter vegetable guides, the USDA recommends acreage *increases* as follows: Snap beans, 10 percent; broccoli, 15 percent; sweet corn, 50 percent; cucumbers, 65 percent; eggplant, 10 percent; and tomatoes, 5 percent. Acreage *cuts* are suggested for beets, 10 percent; cabbage, 10 percent; carrots, 5 percent; cauliflower, 10 percent; escarole, 10 percent; lettuce, 15 percent; and shallots, 5 percent. Acreages equal to those in 1956 are recommended for lima beans, kale, green peppers, spinach, and winter potatoes.

"Bert" Newell's Letter

I was out in my backyard Saturday pulling weeds, hoeing tomatoes, and doing one thing and another when a fellow came up the alley and asked me if I wanted some good cow manure. I always like to use manure on my garden but I have been approached like that before so I was a little careful, and almost instinctively I came back with, "How much have you got, where is it, is it really good, and what's your price."

"Well boss," he replied, "it's right here in the truck and it sure is good rich dirt. I've been getting 75 cents a bushel, but I've got 10 bushels left and I'll let you have it real cheap—\$5 for the lot." Measuring manure by the bushel is still strange to me, but I went back and took a look, anyway. It was a little bitty old pile of corn stalks, manure, and just plain dirt up in one end of the truck, so I said no thanks, and went back to hoeing weeds.

As I scratched along with my hoe, with the sweat running down in my eyes, I got to thinking about those questions that I'd asked, almost instinctively—how much, where, and quality. These are the three basic things anyone has to know before they start to buy or sell anything.

Those were the questions that stumped our grandfathers back in the 1830's and 40's. When their crops were ready to sell, all they knew was what the general situation looked like in their immediate neighborhood.

Information on what the crop conditions were even in the next county was vague, and as for the next State they were dependent on whatever they could pick up by hearsay or what some traveling salesman or buyer told them. Of course, in those days, things didn't move such great distances, but even so, they felt that they were considerably handicapped when it came to bargaining in the marketplace.

Well, things have changed a lot in the past 100 years. I can step on an

airplane about noon and have dinner and go to bed in Los Angeles that evening. Quite a contrast to the oteam crossing my great uncle used to tell me about. Agricultural production and marketing have changed just about as much. Apple producers in the Atlantic Seaboard States are in competition with apple producers in the Pacific States. Grain producers in one State are in competition with grain producers in all other States. Indeed, they're in competition with producers in various parts of the world. Cotton producers are in the same boat, as are livestock producers and a great many producers of other commodities.

All these changes that have taken place in our way of production and marketing down through the years have only intensified our need for answers to the basic marketing questions of where, how much, and quality. The changes have also served to intensify our need for detail and accuracy of the statistical information necessary to answer these questions. Even in my 30 years of crop estimating, I see great differences.

It used to be that most everybody was satisfied with a reasonable estimate of State acreage, yield and production. But nowadays the farmer, the market man, and the research worker all want statistics on parts of States, even counties, and they want them to be accurate. I mention this to illustrate the great responsibility which rests upon us—you and me—in providing the unbiased factual information upon which our whole production, marketing, and distribution system depends.

Yes, the price for that manure still kind of bothered me. But if it had been real good quality and 10 full bushels, I might have bought it.



S. R. Newell, Chairman
Crop Reporting Board, AMS

WHEAT SURPLUS

CUT IS NEAR

The 1955-56 marketing year was the first since 1952-53 in which the carry-over of wheat did not increase substantially. The carryover of 1,030 million bushels on July 1 was only 4 million bushels above a year earlier.

With the 1956 crop estimated to be about equal to expected domestic use and exports, stocks next July 1 may continue about the same. However, a substantial reduction is possible in the following year, since marketing quotas will continue in effect for the 1957 crop and a considerable acreage of wheat is likely to be put into the Soil Bank.

Supply Is Record High

The supply of wheat for the 1956-57 marketing year is estimated at 1,974 million bushels, a new all-time record. This year's supply includes the July 1 carryover, a crop estimated as of August 1 at 939 million and imports of about 5 million. Disappearance slightly above that in 1955-56—about 952 million bushels—would leave a carryover next July 1 almost the same as the 1,030 million bushels on July 1 of this year.

With a goal of 12 million to 15 million acres out of the 55 million-acre allotment for the 1957 crop under the Soil Bank program, acreage planted for harvest would be 40 to 43 million acres. Average yields per seeded acre on such an acreage would result in a crop of around 700 million bushels. Domestic disappearance is estimated at about 610 million bushels. Assuming that exports will be the same as the 341 million bushels for 1955-56, total disappearance would exceed a 700 million-bushel crop by about 250 million bushels.

Provisions of the 1957 Acreage Reserve Program applying to winter wheat seeded this fall were announced on August 13.

Funds will be allocated on the basis of acreage allotments with some weight given to the relationship of supplies by classes. Since the total funds available for the wheat Acreage Reserve are limited, they are allocated county by county and contracts will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Unused funds will be redistributed.

Payments to individual farmers will be based on "normal" crop yield of the land placed in the Reserve, the Acreage Reserve county rate per bushel, and the number of acres placed in the Reserve. The 1957 Acreage Reserve rate for wheat was announced on July 6 at a national average of \$1.20 per bushel. Farmers putting wheat land in the Reserve have to comply with all other acreage allotments on their farms to remain eligible for Acreage Reserve payments.

Cash wheat prices generally advanced following the announcement on July 13, that exports effective September 14 will be drawn primarily from free market supplies rather than from CCC stocks. The bulk of the wheat exports came from CCC stocks in 1955-56. An exception to the general advance in prices was that of spring wheat, which declines seasonally later than winter wheat, because of the later harvest. In mid-July, wheat prices to farmers averaged \$1.90, which compares with \$1.93 a month earlier, \$2.00 in mid-May, \$1.97 in July 1955, and the 1956-crop loan rate of \$2.00.

Prices May Average \$2

Another important price-strengthening factor, which should become more in evidence later in the 1956-57 year is the market recognition that the 1957 crop may be considerably less than total disappearance, which will necessitate eventual drawing on CCC stocks. As a result of these two market influences, it is estimated that the price to farmers in 1956-57 may average about at the support level of \$2.00. Last year, these prices averaged \$1.98, 10 cents under the \$2.08 national average loan rate.

Robert E. Post
Agricultural Economics Division, AMS

WINTER COVER CROP SEED FORECAST

12 PERCENT LESS THAN LAST YEAR

Winter cover crop seed production is forecast at 12 percent less than last year and 2 percent less than average, according to the Crop Reporting Service.

Production of Austrian Winter peas, vetch, crimson clover, and ryegrass seed is forecast at 225,350,000 pounds as compared with last year's production of 255,505,000 pounds. The 1945-54 average is 230,415,000 pounds.

Crimson Clover Seed

Crimson clover seed production in Oregon is forecast at 2,600,000 pounds, 21 percent more than last year and 2½ times the average.

Total production of crimson clover seed in the United States is estimated at 14,700,000 pounds, compared with 9,520,000 pounds last year and the average of 19,500,000 pounds.

Carryover of crimson clover seed totals 1,319,000 pounds compared with 2,047,000 pounds last year.

The Austrian Winter pea crop is forecast at 34,410,000 pounds, 28 percent less than the 1955 crop of 48,000,000 pounds and only about half of the average of 71,870,000 pounds. A carryover of 785,000 pounds by growers was indicated, compared with 637,000 pounds last year. The total carryover of Austrian Winter peas by growers and dealers totaled 10,555,000 pounds, compared with 2,753,000 pounds in 1955.

The hairy vetch seed crop, estimated at 25,010,000 pounds, is 10 percent smaller than the 1955 crop of 27,870,000 pounds and is the smallest production since 1948. It is about one-fourth below the average of 33,579,000 pounds.

The carryover of hairy vetch by growers is indicated at 975,000 pounds, compared with 1,400,000 pounds a year ago. Dealer and farm carryover totals 8,348,000 pounds, compared with 27,957,000 pounds last year.

Common vetch seed production is forecast at 3,840,000 pounds, only a third of the 11,745,000 pounds produced last year and one-seventh of the average of 27,056,000 pounds. In Oregon, where practically all this seed is produced, much of the crop was killed by freezes last winter.

Carryover of common vetch seed by growers is estimated at 116,000 pounds, compared with 108,000 pounds last year. Their carryover plus dealer stocks of old seed on June 30 totaled 1,812,000 pounds, compared with 3,574,000 pounds a year earlier.

The purple vetch seed crop—all produced in California—is estimated at 13,600,000 pounds. This is almost 2½ times the 1955 crop of 5,500,000 pounds.

Production of common ryegrass seed is indicated at 95,790,000 pounds, a sharp decrease from the 121,520,000 pounds harvested in 1955. The average is 61,355,000 pounds.

Farmer owned or controlled stocks of common ryegrass seed on June 30 were unusually large—an estimated 20,658,000 pounds, compared with 4,725,000 pounds last year. Dealer and farm carryover totaled 43,833,000 pounds this year, more than double the total carryover on June 30, 1955.

Perennial Ryegrass

Perennial ryegrass seed production is forecast at 38,000,000 pounds, 21 percent more than last year's crop of 31,350,000 pounds and 4 times the average of 9,433,000 pounds.

Farm carryover of perennial ryegrass seed was also large, estimated at 2,822,000 pounds. A year earlier, farm stocks were practically nil. Dealer and farm carryovers of this seed totaled 8,619,000 pounds on June 30, compared with only 1,945,000 pounds last year.

George C. Edler
Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS

BROILER PROFIT DEPENDS ON SIZE

What weight should you sell your broilers? That is, to make the most money considering:

- Market price
- Feed costs
- Labor and space

Whether you producers raise broilers as a part-time or as a full-time operation, there is a time to sell that will bring you the most returns.

For you farmers who grow only one batch of broilers a year, the relation between feed and broiler prices will largely determine the best market weight. Average chicks raised on \$5 per 100 pounds of feed will return the most income above direct cost if you sell them at 3½ pounds at a 25-cent market price, and as heavy as 4¼ pounds on a 30-cent market.

Year-Round Producers

Now, for you growers who operate the year around, the most profitable finish weight depends on either labor or space, whichever is more limiting. For example, if labor is limiting, it will pay to finish broilers heavy at 3½ to 3¾ pounds, depending on whether the price is 25 or 30 cents per pound. This takes 75 to 80 days of feeding and allows 4 lots a year.

On the other hand, if space limits the number of birds raised, USDA researchers believe a 2½-pound finish gives the highest return on a 25-cent broiler market. Even a 2¼ pound broiler may bring highest profits at 30 cents, since this allows the grower to start a sixth batch of chicks the same year.

Broilers now reach market weights 15 to 30 percent faster than in prewar days—thanks to research on disease, management, breeding, and nutrition.

Tests have shown that crossbreds fed present-day rations reached a 3-

pound average in 2 weeks less time than a prewar strain of birds fed a prewar ration. The crossbreds also required 3.78 pounds less feed per bird.

The trend in broiler production is toward improved strains and better rations, together with new scientific practices in management. These changes plus modern equipment—both on farms and in processing plants—make broiler production more economical.

MORE CITRUS MAY BE SOLD ABROAD

Prospects are excellent for marketing our citrus in Europe from November 1956 to June 1957 because of freeze damage to Spanish citrus. It's possible that 5 million boxes of our winter oranges can be exported to Europe.

The total Spanish 1956-57 citrus crop is expected to be the smallest on record—only 13.3 million boxes, compared with 38.9 million in 1954-55 and 45.5 million in 1953-54.

The USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, following a first-hand evaluation, reported that unusually severe cold weather in Spain in February 1956, badly damaged about one-half of Spain's sweet orange-producing area, and that more than 5 years will be required for tree recovery. Lemons and other citrus fruits also were badly hurt.

The Spanish fresh citrus exports in 1956-57 are not likely to exceed 10 million boxes, or little more than one-third the 1954-55 total. High prices in Spain will limit the quantity of fruit used for citrus products, and little processing is expected in 1957.

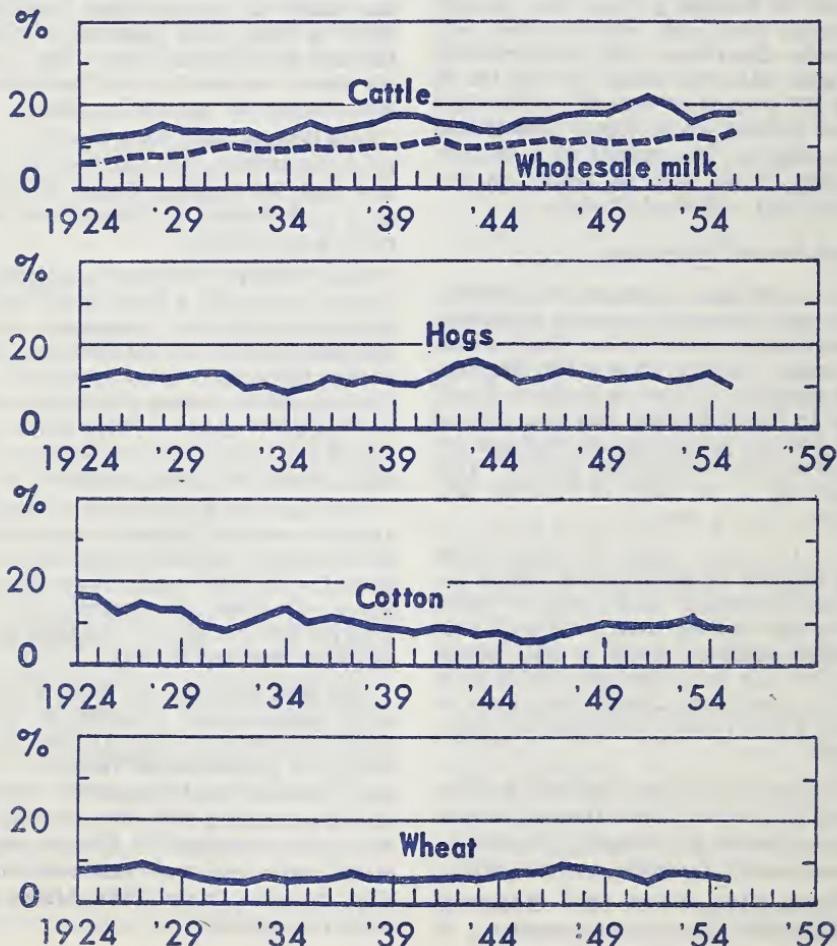
The best markets for United States sweet oranges are expected to be in Western Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. France and Switzerland are not expected to buy large amounts of United States citrus, since they probably will obtain their supplies from North Africa and Italy, respectively.

WHAT PRODUCTS BRING FARMERS THE LARGEST SHARE OF CASH RECEIPTS?

Cash receipts from marketings of cattle, wholesale milk, hogs, cotton, and wheat taken together have generally accounted for about 50 percent of the national total.

Many changes have occurred in the kinds of products that farmers marketed during the last 30 years. And there have been as many changes in the share contributed by individual products to total cash receipts.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM MAJOR FARM PRODUCTS AS PERCENTAGE OF U. S. TOTAL



There are now approximately 150 different commodities that contribute to the total farm income of the country. About 30 of these are livestock or live-stock products and the rest are crops.

Cattle and wholesale milk have increased in relative importance as shown in the chart below. Cattle reached their present level of close to 20 percent in 1950. Hogs generally run close to 10 percent. Regarding live-

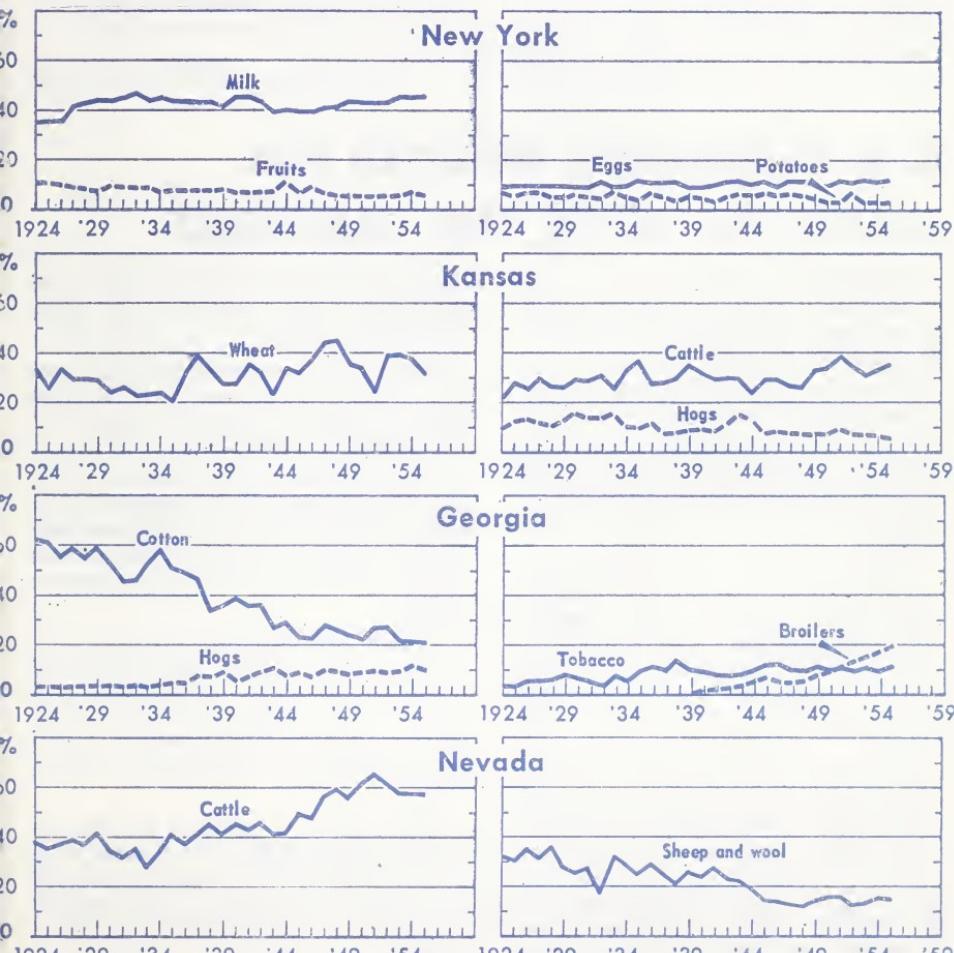
stock and products not shown in the chart, eggs have been steady at or near 6 percent; wool, chickens, retail milk, and butterfat have declined; and turkeys and broilers have increased in relative importance.

Crops have contributed greatly varied proportions to the national total of farm receipts. Cotton declined gradually from 16 percent in 1924 to 6 percent in 1945, but recovered in 1949 to its present level of around 9 percent. Wheat has fluctuated between 4 and 8 percent, with no specific trend. Other

crops that were quite steady include corn, truck crops, dry edible beans, sugar beets, and sugar cane for sirup and sugar. Crops that showed some tendency to decline were hay, oats, flaxseed, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, and fruits. Increasing in relative importance were barley, sorghum grain, tobacco, peanuts, rice, and soybeans.

The picture for the United States as a whole hides the widely fluctuating role that some products have played in the individual States.

CASH RECEIPTS FROM MAJOR FARM PRODUCTS AS PERCENTAGE OF STATE TOTAL



The present share of a commodity in the agriculture of any one State is the product of a long process of change. The increase in population, the expansion of markets, the change in tastes, the growing demand for farm products by industry, the variation of foreign requirements, and other forces have kept the demand for individual commodities constantly changing. Farmers try to meet these changing demands. The result has been a tremendous shift in the kinds of crops and livestock produced in nearly all States and regions.

The westward movement of livestock production and grain growing in the 19th century is a well known phase of our agricultural history. In more recent years we have seen, among other changes, the decline in the sales of butterfat in most of the dairy sections, the expansion of the broiler industry in Georgia and the Del-Mar-Va area,

the extension of the cotton producing area to some of the Western States, and the increase in soybean production in many of the States in the central part of the country.

To illustrate the magnitude of some of the changes since 1924 we have selected 4 States—1 each from the Northeast, the Midwest, the South, and the West. The basic data are the annual estimates of cash receipts from farm marketings. The charts show the percentage that a selected commodity contributed to the total of all cash receipts each year in the State.

The charts are from a new publication "Cash Receipts From Major Farm Commodities by States as Percentage of State Totals, 1924-55," Statistical Bulletin No. 186, published by the Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA.

Harry C. Norcross
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U. S. STANDARDS ADOPTED FOR SLAUGHTER SOWS AND CARCASSES

Official U. S. standards for grades of slaughter sows and sow carcasses have been adopted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The 5 grades for sows and sow carcasses are U. S. No. 1, U. S. No. 2, U. S. No. 3, Medium, and Cull. These are the same designations used for grades of barrows and gilts, and the general characteristics of each grade also are similar.

The grades are based on differences in yields of lean cuts and fat cuts and differences in quality of pork. Federal standards previously were adopted for grades of the barrow and gilt classes of swine and pork carcasses and for other kinds of livestock and their carcasses.

In developing the new standards, sow carcass data were studied to establish relationships between measurements and carcass differences important in grading. The standards include average back fat thickness measurements as objective guides to grade. These principles are similar to those which

received widespread acceptance in the standards for barrows and gilts, adopted in 1952.

The U. S. No. 1 grade includes sows and carcasses with about the minimum finish required to produce pork cuts of acceptable palatability.

The U. S. No. 2 and 3 grades represent overfinish with resulting lower yields of lean and higher yields of fat. Medium and Cull are underfinished grades producing pork with low palatability.

Grades are designed for voluntary use in more effective production and marketing practices. Identification of differences in yields of cuts and quality of pork is necessary to reflect accurately consumer preferences to producers.

The comments received during the 60-day period after the grades were proposed on April 27 indicate that the standards are acceptable. These grade standards became effective on September 1.

POTATO REPORTS TO BE ISSUED BY USDA'S CROP REPORTING SERVICE

Seasonal groups	Inten-tions to plant	Acreage for harvest	Production estimates during current crop year						Revi-sions of previous season's crops
			Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Dec.	Dec.	
Winter.....	Sept.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Dec.	Dec.	
Early Spring.....	Dec.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	.....	Dec.	Apr.	
Late Spring.....	Jan.	Apr.	May	June	July	.....	Dec.	May	
Early Summer.....	Feb.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Dec.	June	
Late Summer.....	Mar. ¹	July	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Dec.	July	
Fall.....	Mar. ¹	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	July	
Total Crop.....	Mar. ¹	July	.....	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	July	

¹ In the March Intentions Report only State totals (all seasons) will be published.

POTATO growers will have more timely reports on potato supplies.

The expanded program deals with production, by seasons, in each State and classifies this production as winter, early spring, late spring, early summer, late summer, and fall.

Twenty-six States have been classified in one seasonal group such as late spring, early summer, late summer, or fall. In 22 States, production has been broken down in two or more seasons. California's annual production has been

separated into four seasonal groups. The Texas and North Carolina crops are shown in three.

Beginning in December, stocks reports will show how many storage potatoes are available for marketing during the next 7 months. Subsequent reports for January 1, February 1, March 1, and possibly April 1 will show growers of winter and spring potatoes the extent of competition they have from the storage crop.

FARMERS' PRICES

Indexes (1910-14=100)	1955		1956			
	Aug.	Year (aver-age)	May	June	July	Aug.
Prices received by farmers.....	232	236	242	247	244	237
Parity index (prices paid, interest, taxes, and wage rates).....	280	281	286	286	287	288
Parity ratio.....	83	84	85	86	85	82

Plentiful Foods

MONTHLY LIST

October

Beef . . . Turkeys . . . Cheese . . .
Rice . . . Broilers and fryers . . .
Pork . . . Eggs . . . Cabbage . . .
Milk and other dairy products
. . . Peanut butter.

BOOST FOR CHEESE

USDA will support the dairy industry's merchandising and promotion campaign to increase consumption of cheese with a Special Plentiful Foods Program on cheese during October.

Stocks of American cheese in the Nation's warehouses totaled 516 million pounds on August 1—about 124 million pounds above average for this time of year.

Food distributors cooperating in the USDA program will intensify their merchandising on cheese during October, while cooperating food editors and broadcasters will participate in the program by suggesting ways to serve cheese, in food pages of newspapers and magazines and radio and television programs.

Farmer's share of consumer's food dollar

July 1956-----	41 percent
June 1956-----	41 percent
July 1955-----	40 percent

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300
(GPO)